

Function: Department of Public Works
Department: Conservation Commission
Department Budget: \$58,295

Department Mission:

The mission of the Springfield Conservation Commission is to properly and effectively apply and implement the statutes as established under Chapter 8C of the M.G.L. which authorizes the creation of the Local Conservation Commission for the purposes of protecting and preserving the Commonwealth's natural resources within the City of Springfield.

Department Highlights:

The Springfield Conservation Commission, which serves the Commonwealth's third largest community, has historically been one of the most innovative and proactive Conservation Commission's in the State. Springfield was one of the first Commission's to have full-time staff, and arguably the first to have technical staff which were available to assist the public, consultants and other City Departments alike. In response to their charge under Chapter 8C, the Commission has acquired over 600 acres of Public Open Space since its inception less than forty (40) years. An exceptional accomplishment for an urban environment. Acquisition has been through receipt of reimbursement grants, purchase in fee simple and donations. The Commission's Self-Help Tax Title Grant from the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, Division of Conservation Services, in its fifth year, was born of necessity in response to budget reductions and presently serves as a model for the rest of the State's Municipalities. An additional 200 plus acres have been protected through Conservation Restriction.

The Commission was the first in the State to adopt a Herbicide Ordinance to address public concerns over exposure to broad based use pesticides in the 1980's. The State's Right of Way Management Regulations were based on the Commission's Ordinance. The Commission's progressiveness towards the protection of the City's unique natural and wetlands systems is further illustrated in the establishment of 100 foot and 50 foot, jurisdictional and no build buffer zones respectively under its wetlands ordinance, these pre-dated State Wetland Regulations.

The Commission has attempted to efficiently implement their statutory mission through the maintenance of static staffing levels for over twenty-five (25) years. Most importantly, however, the fair consistent application and interpretation of the Wetlands Regulations by the Commission has resulted in only six (6) appeals of issued permits within the past thirty (30) years.

City of Springfield
Public Works
Conservation Commission
SUMMARY

FY 06 Recommended Budget

	Actual		Adopted		Actual		Estimated		Proposed	
	Expenditures		FY 05		03/31/05		06/30/05		FY 06	
	FY 04		FY 05		03/31/05		06/30/05		FY 06	
PROGRAM SUMMARY										
Preservation of Natural Resources	\$	87,959	\$	97,105	\$	68,608	\$	96,487	\$	58,295
		-		-		-		-		-
		-		-		-		-		-
		-		-		-		-		-
		-		-		-		-		-
TOTAL	\$	87,959	\$	97,105	\$	68,608	\$	96,487	\$	58,295

	Actual		Estimated		Proposed	
	FY 04		FY 05		FY 06	
REVENUE SUMMARY						
Non General Fund						
Grants	\$	32,874	\$	35,494	\$	-
Wetland Filing Fees		1,000		18,000		-
Conservation Fund		-		-		58,295
		-		-		-
Total Non General Fund	\$	33,874	\$	53,494	\$	58,295
General Fund						
General Fund Fees	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
General Fund Contribution		54,085		42,993		-
Total General Fund	\$	54,085	\$	42,993	\$	-
Total	\$	87,959	\$	96,487	\$	58,295

	Adopted	Adopted	Proposed
	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06
FUNDED POSITIONS/FTEs:			
Preservation of Natural Resources	2	2	1
TOTAL	2	2	1

APPROPRIATION SUMMARY	Adopted	Adopted	Proposed
	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06
Personal Services	\$ 82,269	\$ 88,795	\$ -
Other Than Personal Services	5,690	8,310	-
Capital Outlay			
TOTAL	\$ 87,959	\$ 97,105	\$ -

City of Springfield**FY 06 Recommended Budget**

Function: Department of Public Works
Department: Conservation Commission
Program: Preservation of Natural Reserves
Program Budget \$58,295

Program Goal:

To preserve critical and unique natural resource areas as public open space for passive recreation and to protect Wetland Resource Areas within the City of Springfield.

Program Narrative:

The Conservation Commission preserves and protects the City's Natural Resources through the administration and enforcement of the Mass. Wetlands Protection Act, River's Protection Act and City's Wetlands Ordinance, and by acquiring through gift and by fee simple public open space for passive recreation. The Commission is currently the steward of and maintains throughout the city over 600 acres of public open space. The areas support walking and nature trails, fishing, birding, cross country skiing and educational opportunities, amenities important to neighborhood quality of life. Presently, the Commission primarily depends upon volunteer efforts, as available from the community, to clean and maintain each area, due to budget constraints. As resources become available the Commission intends to expand the maintenance program, shorten the cleaning cycle and increase usage through public education.

The City's Natural Resources are also protected through the administration and enforcement of existing State and Local wetlands regulation. Regulations are enforced through the review of all proposed public and private work, which occurs within 100 feet of a Regulated Wetland Resource Area. Review includes public hearings, technical assistance, on-site inspections and permit issuance. Unauthorized work activities continue to be a challenge due to staff availability. Through increased public awareness, completion of a wetlands GIS Data Layer and prioritized pursuit of violators through available legal remedies, wetlands losses attributed to unauthorized work will be reduced.

Program Objectives:

1. Decrease instances of unauthorized wetland alteration and permit non-compliance from 15 documented occurrences (FY 2005) to 5 (FY 2006).
2. Generation of a Wetland Layer to the City's GIS data base.
3. Increase number of Conservation areas cleaned from 6 (FY 2005) to 12 (FY 2006)
4. Complete processing of an additional 20 tax title properties under the Commission's Self Help Tax Title Grant.

Key Program Measures	FY 2004 <u>Actual</u>	FY 2005 <u>Estimated</u>	FY 2006 <u>Projected</u>
Acres preserved from 5-year open space plan	7	22	15
Wetlands receiving approp. controls (permits etc.)	323	460	600
Wet site inspections completed	175	275	310
Workshops (pre-planning meetings) conducted	125	195	250

Proposed Program Changes:

There are no proposed program changes at this time.

City of Springfield
Program Summary
Conservation Commission
Preservation of Natural Resources

FY 06 Recommended Budget

	Actual									
	Expenditures		Adopted	Actual	Estimated	Proposed				
	FY 04		FY 05	03/31/05	06/30/05	FY 06				
EXPENDITURE SUMMARY										
Regular Payroll	\$	82,269	\$	88,795	\$	66,597	\$	88,795	\$	49,985
Overtime		-		-		-		-		-
Purchase of Service		3,200		5,460		1,699		5,126		5,150
Materials and Supplies		2,120		2,457		312		2,212		2,765
Intergovernmental		-		-		-		-		-
Other		370		393		-		354		395
Capital Outlay		-		-		-		-		-
Total	\$	87,959	\$	97,105	\$	68,608	\$	96,487	\$	58,295

	Actual		Estimated		Proposed	
REVENUE SUMMARY	FY 04		FY 05		FY 06	
Non General Fund						
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	Actual	Estimated	Proposed
FUNDED POSITIONS/FTEs	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06
Envir. Management Planner	1	1	-
Envir. Affairs Admin.	1	1	1
Total	2	2	1
Appropriation Control			\$ -